

PARENTS & FRIENDS of GAYS

COPY

April 29, 1980

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PARENTS & FRIENDS OF GAYS (PFG) is not only alarmed and concerned but we are also frightened by the TV presentation GAY POWER-GAY POLITICS, which was aired throughout the nation on last Saturday evening by CBS TV.

The program lacked a true understanding of our Gay sons and daughters - who were not even shown. It only served to perpetuate the awful myths and misinformation about Gay persons everywhere. At a time when Lesbian women and Gay men are making themselves known in a society which still does not really understand them and are fighting not only for their human and civil rights, but for their very existence as human beings, CBS has chosen to present a program which can only add more fuel to an already active fire of hatred and bigotry.

As parents of Gay daughters and sons, a plea is made for ~~the~~ the truth about our children.....a chance to educate the community at large...before more blood is shed like in San Francisco and elsewhere!

PFG began more than four years ago as a support group for Parents of Gay women and men. Through its hot lines, monthly rap and lecture meetings, library, parents learn to understand their Gay sons and Lesbian daughters. A Speakers' bureau and educational outreach programs bring understanding of all Gay persons to the community.

end of release

Parents & Friends of Gays is a non profit, tax-exempt, all volunteer, local community based organization of parents, other relatives, and friends of gay persons.

Los Angeles Chapter

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The National Organization for Women is appalled at CBS's irresponsible lack of judgment in the airing of "GAY POWER - GAY POLITICS" for the obvious sake of ratings and sensationalism. CBS has given prime time to a program with no social or artistic redeeming value.

It is an obvious attempt by CBS to perpetuate the myth that all homosexuals behave in a deviant manner and that they are a danger to society. When in actuality the homosexual lifestyle is as diverse as that of the heterosexual community. By not acknowledging this diversification CBS is in effect choosing to single out, censor and deliberately discredit the gay community and all of us who have been supportive of that community.

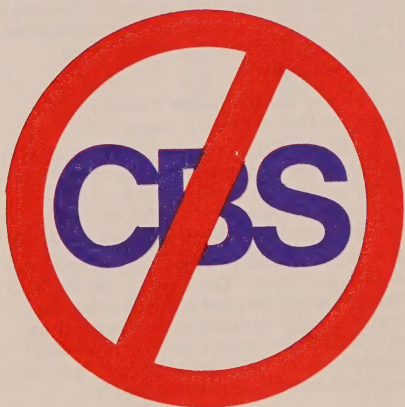
We cannot and will not accept the deliberate and irresponsible maligning of an entire segment of our society without protest. This type of biased programming is not new to the feminist community, but remains a danger to us all.

CBS and the producers of this film have done a grave and unforgivable injustice to the community that has worked so hard and so long for the opportunity to exist as human beings in this society.

We who believe so strongly in human rights must join together and speak out in outrage for every lesbian and gay man who by virtue of their sexuality have been insulted and discredited by CBS's lack of integrity in journalism. It is a sad day for all minorities in this community.

CBS

**looks
at the
GAY &
LESBIAN
Community**



BACKGROUND

On Saturday, April 26, 1980, from 10:00 - 11:00 p.m., Los Angeles time, CBS screened nationally a major television show produced by George Crile and Grace Deikhaus, called "Gay Power / Gay Politics."

HISTORY

The CBS news team spent approximately ten (10) months in the San Francisco Gay and Lesbian community, shooting many thousands of feet of film, interviewing numerous political figures, attending a wide variety of events and recording a broad-based multi-faceted community, comprised of men and women from all walks of life and from all races. What the national viewing audience saw was in no way representative of that broad spectrum.

REACTION TO THE PROGRAM

There was immediate and angry reaction from Lesbians and Gay men from all over the country. The universal response has been that CBS **deliberately** presented a derogatory, inflammatory, irresponsible show.

The following summarizes the thinking of the Lesbian and Gay community nationwide:

- **WE ACCUSE CBS** of yellow journalism of the most dangerous kind. If even one member of our national community is a victim of violence because of this show, we hold CBS responsible as the attacker, and it is CBS who should stand trial.
- **WE ACCUSE CBS** of deliberately ignoring the title of its own show, "Gay Power / Gay Politics." Excessive camera time was spent on extraneous matters, carefully designed to sensationalize gay male life, with the explicit intent of provoking misunderstanding, fear, and hostility, and perpetuating nonacceptance of our community.

- **WE ACCUSE CBS** of selective editing. Thousands of feet of film were edited **out** to deliberately concentrate on a very limited segment of the community, to create a sensational program, for reasons known only to CBS. Through this highly selective editing, CBS distorted the truth and presented a very narrow, exploitive view of our community.
- **WE ACCUSE CBS** of sexism and racism. The program was sexist and racist in its most conspicuous exclusion of women and people of color.
- **WE ACCUSE CBS** of a blatant attempt to discredit nationally our Gay and Lesbian political leaders.
- **WE ACCUSE CBS** of a planned attempt to discredit the Gay and Lesbian movement, at precisely the time in history when we are indeed making some significant gains — when we are beginning to achieve societal respect and understanding, and are developing a united sense within our community.
- **WE ACCUSE CBS** of making a call for genocide of our movement. Note this quote from the epilogue of the show:
 “The right of Gays to organize, like any other minority, for their interest is no longer in question. But what will those interests be? A demand for absolute sexual freedom...? Will this challenge to traditional values provoke far more hostility and controversy when put to the test elsewhere? It is no longer a question of whether Gays will achieve political power, but what they will attempt to do with it.”

OUR RESPONSE

- The Gay and Lesbian community wonders what **really** motivated those involved in this production?
- What are the organizational ties and the personal politics of the show's producers and the CBS personnel responsible for the program?
- Is this show part of a conspiracy to discredit and sensationalize our lives and concerns?

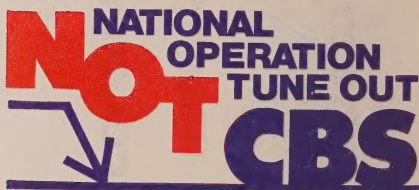
- Is CBS in violation of any FCC regulations?
- Are there grounds for class action suits against CBS and their affiliates?

National Operation Tune-Out CBS. During the entire Sweeps Week of the fall rating season, our community and its friends and supporters, NATIONWIDE, will be mobilized to TUNE-OUT CBS.

DEMANDS

- **WE DEMAND THAT CBS** remove from distribution and prohibit airing of its film "Gay Power/ Gay Politics" in whole or in part, anywhere, at any time, regardless of previous permissions that may have been granted.
- **WE DEMAND THAT CBS** make a public apology to our Lesbian and Gay community, and to the individuals in that film whose characters have been slanderized, whose lives have been endangered, and whose careers have potentially been jeopardized.
- **WE DEMAND THAT CBS** exercise its public responsibility, and provide **equal** time, **prime** time, for the airing of a film that honestly portrays the reasons our community **needs** and is **seeking** political power — showing the struggle a non-accepting society forces us to wage, **simply** to attain equality and justice under the law, which is guaranteed to **all** American citizens — completely finance and provide all necessary technical support for the making of such a film, to be produced by the Lesbian and Gay community.

NATIONAL
NOT OPERATION
TUNE OUT
CBS



LOS ANGELES COMMITTEE



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DAILY 10:00 a.m. TO 2:00 p.m.

Come to the REGENTS BOARD ROOM
(Century Park Plaza MEZZANINE)

HOSPITALITY ROOM:

Quiet and honest conversation with members and friends of the Gay and Lesbian community.

COFFEE and SNACKS:

Take a few minutes from your hectic schedule to relax and allow us to share our deep concerns with you about this most dangerous CBS documentary.

NOT NATIONAL
OPERATION
TUNE OUT
CBS

**TUNE OUT
CBS
DURING THE
CRUCIAL
SWEEP WEEK
OF THE
FALL SEASON**

LOS ANGELES COMMITTEE: 1428 No. McCadden Place, Los Angeles, CA 90028 / (213) 463-3928
Organized by members of the Gay and Lesbian community and non-Gay supporters.

